

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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HENRY A. WAXMAN  
33RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

December 11, 2013

The Honorable Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

Dear Mr. Postmaster General:

As the Representative of California's 33<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, which includes the City of Santa Monica, I am writing to request information about the lack of on-site parking at the Santa Monica Carrier Annex located at 1653 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Santa Monica, California.

As you know, on August 17, 2012, the United States Postal Service (USPS) provided initial notice of its decision to relocate retail services from the Santa Monica Main Post office at 1248 5<sup>th</sup> Street to the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Carrier Annex. I appealed the decision on September 20, 2012, and was particularly concerned that the remote location of the Carrier Annex raised serious questions about access and safety. In contrast, the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Post Office was located in the heart of Santa Monica, had plenty of parking, and was easily accessible to thousands of residents who walked or depended on public transit.

In rejecting all appeals, USPS dismissed concerns about the location and pledged that customers would continue to have the same level of access to retail service. That pledge relied, in part, on the promise of ample parking at the Carrier Annex. In his October 4, 2012, final decision letter, Vice President of Facilities Tom Samra wrote that concerns about poor access were not valid because "the Carrier Annex will provide customers on-site and on-street parking."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Corrected Final Decision for Relocation of Retail Services in Santa Monica, California (October 4, 2012)

USPS went so far as to argue that the parking situation would actually improve. In its motion to dismiss my appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission, USPS wrote that “the Annex offers customers on-site and street parking whereas the Main Post Office location did not.”<sup>2</sup>

USPS clearly used the promise of on-site parking to justify the relocation services over local objections. The Carrier Annex opened for business on July 1, 2013, and there is still no on-site customer parking. I am hearing from residents that the available street parking is not only insufficient, but potentially dangerous. Many feel they are risking an accident every time they back out of the available parking spots into oncoming traffic.

I request a written response detailing what the Postal Service’s plan is, and how quickly that plan will be implemented, to provide on-site customer parking at the Carrier Annex.

Sincerely,

  
Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress

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<sup>2</sup> Motion of United States Postal Service to Dismiss Proceedings, Docket No. A2013-1. (October 19, 2012)